

COLONEL ROWAN

**COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND
RESTORATION ACT**

TASK FORCE MEETING

OCTOBER 9, 2002

BREAUX ACT TASK FORCE

October 9, 2002, 9:30 a.m.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – Louisiana Room

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002, 9:30 a.m.

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – Louisiana Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

AGENDA

- I. Meeting initiation: 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.**
 - a. Introduction of Task Force members or alternates.
 - b. Opening remarks of Task Force members.
- II. Adoption of Minutes from August 2002 Task Force Meeting: 9:40 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.**
- III. Status of Breaux Act Program Funds and Projects (Podany) 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Podany will discuss the construction program and status of the CWPPRA accounts.
- IV. Report: CWPPRA Funding and Expenditure Overview (Miller) and Guidance from Task Force on future Project Priority Lists: 10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

Mr. Miller will give a presentation covering CWPPRA funding and expenditures. Following the presentation, the Task Force will have the opportunity to discuss the size of future priority lists and funding decisions.
- V. Request: Approval of the FY03 Planning Budget (Browning) 10:15 am – 10:20 am**

Agencies have developed program and planning budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year. The Technical Committee recommends approving the FY03 Planning Budget.
- VI. Request: West Bay Sediment Diversion Construction Approval (Saia) 10:20 to 10:25**

Mr. Saia will present the Technical Committee's recommendation that approval be granted for constructing the West Bay Sediment Diversion project in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The revised fully funded cost of the project is \$22,306,712.
- VII. Request: Project Deauthorization (Saia) 10:25 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.**

Mr. Saia will present the results of the procedures to deauthorize the Upper Oak River Freshwater Introduction Siphon (BS-09) project. The Task Force is being asked to deauthorize the project.
- VIII. Report: Outreach Committee (Bodin) 10:35 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.**

Mrs. Bodin will report on the Breaux Act outreach program.
- IX. Request: Outreach Funding Initiatives FY03 (Bodin) 10:40 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.**

The outreach committee is seeking Task Force approval of three funding initiatives for pursuit in FY03.

- X. Report: Adaptive Management Review (Visser and Raynie) 11:20 am to 11:35 am**
Dr. Visser and Mr. Raynie will present the results of the adaptive management review.
- XI. Announcement: Public Meetings to Present PPL12 Candidate Project Evaluation Results (Miller) 11:35 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.**
Mr. Miller will announce two public meetings that will be held to present the results of the PPL12 candidate project evaluations. Meetings are scheduled November 19, 2002 in Abbeville, Louisiana, and November 20, 2002 in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- XII. Additional Agenda Items 11:40 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.**
- XIII. Request for Public Comments 11:50 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- XIV. Date and Location of the next Task Force Meeting**
The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., January 16, 2003, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- XV. Adjourn 12:00 p.m.**

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

<u>Task Force Member</u>	<u>Member's Representative</u>
Governor, State of Louisiana	Karen Gautreaux Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities Office of the Governor State Lands and Natural Resources Bldg. Capitol Annex 1051 North 3rd Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 342-4738; Fax: (504) 342-8320
Administrator, EPA	Mr. Miguel Flores Director, Water Quality Protection Division Region VI Environmental Protection Agency 1445 Ross Ave. Dallas, Texas 75202 (214) 665-7101; Fax: (214) 665-7373
Secretary, Department of the Interior	Mr. Dave Frugé Field Office Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Department of the Interior 646 Cajundome Blvd. Suite 400 Lafayette, Louisiana 70506 (337) 291-3115; Fax: (318) 291-3139

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEMBERS (cont.)

<u>Task Force Member</u>	<u>Member's Representative</u>
Secretary, Department of Agriculture	Mr. Donald Gohmert State Conservationist Natural Resources Conservation Service 3737 Government Street Alexandria, Louisiana 71302 (318) 473-7751; Fax: (318) 473-7682
Secretary, Department of Commerce	Mr. Rollie Schmitten National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Director, Office of Habitat Conservation, National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Rm 15253 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 (301) 713-0174; Fax: (301) 713-0184
Secretary of the Army (Chairman)	Col. Peter J. Rowan District Engineer U.S. Army Engineer District, N.O. P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, LA 70160-0267 (504) 862-2204; Fax: (504) 862-2492

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE PROCEDURES

I. Task Force Meetings and Attendance

A. Scheduling/Location

The Task Force will hold regular meetings quarterly, or more often if necessary to carry out its responsibilities. When possible, regular meetings will be scheduled as to time and location prior to the adjournment of any preceding regular meeting.

Special meetings may be called upon request and with the concurrence of a majority of the Task Force members, in which case, the Chairperson will schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

Emergency meetings may be called upon request and with the unanimous concurrence of all members of the Task Force at the call of the Chairperson. When deemed necessary by the Chairperson, such meetings can be held via telephone conference call provided that a record of the meeting is made and that any actions taken are affirmed at the next regular or special meeting.

B. Delegation of Attendance

The appointed members of the Task Force may delegate authority to participate and actively vote on the Task Force to a substitute of their choice. Notice of such delegation shall be provided in writing to the Task Force Chairperson prior to the opening of the meeting.

C. Staff Participation

Each member of the Task Force may bring colleagues, staff or other assistants/advisors to the meetings. These individuals may participate fully in the meeting discussions but will not be allowed to vote.

D. Public Participation (see Public Involvement Program)

All Task Force meetings will be open to the public. Interested parties may submit written questions or comments that will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

II. Administrative Procedures

A. Quorum

A quorum of the Task Force shall be a simple majority of the appointed members of the Task Force, or their designated representatives.

B. Voting

Whenever possible, the Task Force shall resolve issues by consensus. Otherwise, issues will be decided by a simple majority vote, with each member of the Task Force having one vote. The Task Force Chairperson may vote on any issue, but must vote to break a tie. All votes shall be via voice and individual votes shall be recorded in the minutes, which shall be public documents.

C. Agenda Development/Approval

The agenda will be developed by the Chairperson's staff. Task Force members or Technical Committee Chairpersons may submit agenda items to the Chairperson in advance. The agenda will be distributed to each Task Force member (and others on an distribution list maintained by the Chairperson's staff) within two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. Additional agenda items may be added by any Task Force member at the beginning of a meeting.

D. Minutes

The Chairperson will arrange for minutes of all meetings to be taken and distributed within two weeks after a meeting is held to all Task Force members and others on the distribution list.

E. Distribution of Information/Products

All information and products developed by the Task Force members or their staffs will be distributed to all Task Force members normally within two weeks in advance of any proposed action in order to allow adequate time for review and comment, unless the information/product is developed at the meeting or an emergency situation occurs.

III. Miscellaneous

A. Liability Disclaimer

To the extent permitted by the law of the State of Louisiana and Federal regulations, neither the Task Force nor any of its members individually shall be liable for the negligent acts or omissions of an employee, agent or representative selected with reasonable care, nor for anything the Task Force may do or refrain from doing in good faith, including the following: errors in judgement, acts done or committed on advice of counsel, or mistakes of fact or law.

B. Conflict of Interest

No member of the Task Force (or designated representative) shall participate in any decision or vote which would constitute a conflict of interest under Federal or State law. Any potential conflicts of interest must clearly be stated by the member prior to any discussion on the agenda item.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 7, 2002, TASK FORCE
MEETING**

For Information and Discussion

Mr. Saia will present the minutes from the last Task Force meeting. Task Force members may provide suggestions for additional information to be included in the official meeting minutes.

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**CWPPRA Task Force Meeting
August 7, 2002**

Minutes

I. INTRODUCTION

Call to order at 9:40 a.m.

Col. Rowan, new Chairman of the Task Force, began his opening remarks with an introduction of himself to the Task Force. Col. Rowan stated the level of interest and involvement the people of Louisiana have in the coastal land loss issue impressed him. Rowan then asked the members of the Task Force to introduce themselves.

Dr. Len Bahr was the first to introduce himself, stating he was from Governor Foster's office. Dr. Bahr also noted the state was very engaged in the CWPPRA process.

Mr. Rollie Schmitten, Director of the Habitat Conservation Center at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), welcomed the new Colonel and also Mr. Miguel Flores, the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Division Director, to the Task Force.

Mr. Dave Fruge', Field Office Supervisor for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), welcomed Col. Rowan and Mr. Flores.

Mr. Miguel Flores, new Division Director of EPA, introduced himself stating this was his first Task Force meeting. Mr. Flores also noted that he looks forward to working with the Task Force.

Mr. Bruce Lehto, Assistant State Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), stated he would act as the representative for Task Force member Mr. Donald Gohmert.

Col. Rowan then asked that the Task Force move forward with the agenda. He noted that after item three on the agenda was complete, they would move forward to item 12 because of flight arrangements that had been made. After item 12, the meeting would resume to the original agenda item sequence.

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 2002 MEETING

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Col. Rowan brought to the attention of the Task Force the adoption of the minutes from the last Task Force meeting.

Dr. Bahr motioned to adopt the minutes and Mr. Schmitten seconded that motion.

The motion was passed.

III. REPORT STATUS OF BREAUX ACT PROGRAM FUNDS

Col. Rowan asked Mr. Tom Podany to report on the status of planning and construction funds. Mr. Podany stated they're currently in the process of working on the FY03 planning budget for the October Task Force meeting. He also noted \$940,000 was available in uncommitted funds. There was a total of \$503 million in funds, \$246 million being Federal funds and \$257 million being nonfederal funds. Of the \$503 million, only \$150 million had been expended. Mr. Podany followed up with the status of cash flow projects. He stated the requests were up to \$400 million in projects next year with \$32 million available. Mr. Podany noted the demand would be there soon and there might be delays in funding projects or a search for funding alternatives will need to be considered.

Mr. Podany also said before the January 2003 selection of PPL 12, the Corps would provide a summary of project funding schedules.

Mr. Podany opened the floor for questions and there were none.

XII. PRESENTATION: NATIONAL OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Col. Rowan introduced Ms. Sidney Coffee. Ms. Coffee noted that the State had contracted Mr. Val Vermillion of Pacific Visions to develop a national campaign to save the wetlands.

Ms. Coffee stated this was an overreaching public relations campaign, not a lobbying effort. The campaign will be made public at the Southern Governor's Association meeting on August 25.

Mr. Val Vermillion then gave a presentation on the State's campaign, "America's Wetland". The presentation showed two constant themes throughout the campaign, world ecological significance and economic and energy security.

After the presentation, Col. Rowan opened for questions.

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Dr. Bahr asked that the campaign be coordinated with the Breaux Act outreach committee and to use the existing infrastructure and contacts of the committee.

Mr. Schmitten stated it was an excellent presentation and requested a hard copy.

IV. REQUEST: PROJECT CONSTRUCTION APPROVALS

Col. Rowan asked Mr. John Saia to address the next item on the agenda.

Mr. Saia introduced the Lake Portage Construction Approval. He stated the project was authorized on PPL 8. The cost for the project over 20 years would be \$1,138,000.

Mr. Saia stated the Technical Committee recommended construction approval.

Col. Rowan opened the floor for any discussion. Mr. Schmitten motioned for approval and Mr. Flores seconded that motion with the stipulation of NRCS providing Plans and Specs to LDNR for their review.

The motion for construction approval of Lake Portage was passed.

V. REQUEST: MS RIVER SEDIMENT TRAP PHASE I APPROVAL

Mr. Saia stated the Technical Committee recommended the approval of Phase I study for the sediment trap, at a cost of \$1.88 million. Mr. Saia also stated alternatives would have to be considered not just at the Head of Passes but also upstream.

Col. Rowan opened the floor for any discussion. Dr. Bahr noted that the Comprehensive Study team is scheduled to conduct a model and these alternatives could be incorporated into that model.

Mr. Hanchey noted concerns about the delays in signing the cost share agreements between the Corps and LDNR and raised the possibility of investigating sites outside of the delta for construction and placement of material from the trap.

Mr. Saia responded that the Corps recently provided the West Bay cost share agreement to the state and expected to provide the Phase I/II model on Friday. He also committed that the Corps would work hand in hand with the state to fully evaluate design alternatives for the sediment trap.

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Mr. Schmitten motioned to approve the sediment trap with the alternatives developed and Mr. Fruge' seconded that motion.

The motion to approve Phase I funding for the Sediment Trap was passed.

VI. PHASE II FUNDING APPROVALS

Mr. Saia presented three requests from USFWS for Phase II authorization. The following projects were approved in separate votes, all motions by Fruge' and seconds by Schmitten. All Phase II approval requests were passed. It was noted that the approval of the Grand Lake project was contingent upon completion of several outstanding tasks.

- a. Grand – White Lake Land Bridge -- \$5,234,411
- b. Delta Management at Fort St. Phillip -- \$1, 689,940
- c. North Lake Mechant Landbridge – Vegetative Plantings -- \$502,382

VII. REQUEST: PROJECT DEAUTHORIZATION

Mr. Saia presented a Technical Committee recommendation to approve a request to initiate deauthorization procedures for the Upper Oak River Freshwater Introduction Siphon (BS-09) project.

Col. Rowan asked for an explanation of the procedures and Mr. Podany provided a brief overview of the process.

Col. Rowan asked why the project sponsor was seeking deauthorization and Mr. Lehto (representing NRCS) responded that land rights and technical issues were problematic and rendered the project un-buildable.

Mr. Flores asked if funds would be returned to the program and Mr. Podany responded that money would be returned to the general CWPPRA accounts.

Dr. Bahr motions to begin the deauthorization process and Mr. Lehto seconded that motion.

The motion to deauthorize the Upper Oak River Freshwater Introduction Siphon was passed.

VIII. REQUEST: CHANGE IN STATUS OF OUTREACH COORDINATOR POSITION

TAB D

Mr. Fruge' offers the motion to change Ms. Gabrielle Bodin's title from Acting Outreach Coordinator to Outreach Coordinator.

Mr. Schmitten states he strongly concurs.

Mr. Flores also stated he strongly concurs after Ms. Bodin's efforts.

Mr. Fruge motions and Mr. Schmitten seconded that motion.

The motion is passed.

IX. REPORT: OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Bodin stated the annual report would be coming in October. Mrs. Bodin also stated that National Public Radio (NPR) has been working to put together a series on coastal wetland loss. The series will be a two-part series, with the first part airing on Friday, September 6.

Mrs. Bodin announced the Outreach Committee gave a presentation at the Water Resources Conference in May of this year.

She also said that she will be attending a training workshop on media training. The first media training workshop will be held August 24 at LUMCOM.

X. REPORT: ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Dr. Visser announced a workshop will be held Monday, August 12 and Tuesday, August 13 on the results of the adaptive management review.

Dr. Bahr commended Dr. Visser and the others involved in the effort. He noted that neither he nor his staff had enough time to participate in the evaluation process and that he is concerned about certain types of projects being approved by the Task Force, especially terracing projects. Dr. Bahr stated he is not convinced that terracing works and that it may simply be building spoil banks in the marsh.

Mr. Flores asked what the end product of the workshop will be. Dr. Visser replied that she will give a presentation at the next Task Force meeting on the results of the summary.

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XI. PRESENTATION: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Mr. Fruge' introduced Mr. Ross Melincuk from Ducks Unlimited. Mr. Melincuk gave a presentation on the wetlands conservation efforts of Ducks Unlimited. The mission of Ducks Unlimited is to fulfill the needs of North American waterfowl by protecting, restoring, and enhancing important wetlands and associated habitats.

Mr. Melincuk stated their Southern Regional Office is now placing increased emphasis on coastal Louisiana as a key part of the Gulf Coast region, and they are looking for ways to partner with CWPPRA and other programs. He distributed copies of their latest magazine featuring an article on coastal Louisiana and a large-scale wetlands terracing project cosponsored by Ducks Unlimited.

Dr. Bahr noted that he's not against terracing, just about the wetland value assessment of it. He also offered the suggestion of having a workshop on terracing.

Mr. Flores stated he was impressed by the organization and supported it.

Mr. Lehto noted NRCS has been a long-time partner with Ducks Unlimited and encouraged other agencies to join in their partnership.

Mr. Fruge' stated that Ducks Unlimited is a powerful organization and that CWPPRA and Coast 2050 could use their help and support.

Mr. Hanchey commented that Ducks Unlimited is in a unique position to support Val Vermillion and the "America's Wetland" outreach campaign.

Mr. Schmitten stated he supported Ducks Unlimited and noted that CWPPRA alone cannot save coastal Louisiana and that we need proactive partnership development. He also stated he would like to see similar support from sport and commercial fishermen.

XIII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Col. Rowan asked the Task Force members if they had any additional items. No additional items were raised.

XIV. REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Col. Rowan opened the floor for public comments.

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Mr. Doug Daigle, Hypoxia Director for the Mississippi River Basin Alliance, stated that Ducks Unlimited has been helpful with the issues of hypoxia and climate change. He also stated that he was glad to see that these issues are being taken into consideration for the Coast 2050 plan. Mr. Daigle also raised a concern about reconciling permitting with restoration and that we must encourage that (reconciling) to happen.

Mr. Martin Cancienne, Chief of Operations for Representative Billy Tauzin, welcomed the new Colonel and offered his assistance to the New Orleans District and also asked for the opportunity for the New Orleans District to be called on any time if help is needed.

Mr. Mark Schleifstein, reporter from the Times-Picayune, stated the Society of Professional Journalists is having a conference in New Orleans next fall and that he will call on CWPPRA to help explain restoration and coastal wetlands issues.

Ms. Karen Gautreaux, Governor's Special Assistant for Environmental Affairs, announced that King Milling is the official Chair of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Coastal Louisiana. Ms. Gautreaux also announced the first meeting of the committee will be sometime in early September. She stated Dr. Bahr has been appointed the first applied coastal restoration Research and Development Director and Ms. Sidney Coffee will move from her current position to the Governor's Office. Ms. Gautreaux stated she would be taking Dr. Bahr's position as Special Assistant and head of the Governor's Office of Coastal Affairs on an interim basis and would thus be representing the state on all preceding CWPPRA Task Force meetings.

XV. DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

Col. Rowan announced the date and location of the next Task Force meeting. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., October 9, 2002, at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

XV. MEETING ADJOURNED

Col. Rowan called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schmitten moved to adjourn and Dr. Bahr seconded that motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

TAB D

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING
October 9, 2002

STATUS OF BREAUX ACT PROGRAM FUNDS AND PROJECTS

For Information

1. CWPPRA Program Planning Budget.
 - a. Planning Budget by FY (pg 1-3). Compares approved/actual budgets from FY99 through FY03. Reflects the amended and approved FY03 Planning Program budget for **\$5,303,450**.
 - b. FY03 Detailed Budget Tasks (pg 4-11). The FY03 Planning Program budget reflected through specific tasks.
2. Construction Program.
 - a. CWPPRA Project Summary Report by Priority List (pg 1-2). A priority list summary of funding, baseline and current estimates, obligations and expenditures, for the construction program as furnished by the lead agencies for the CWPPRA database.
 - b. Status of Construction Funds (pg 3-4). Taking into consideration approved current estimates, project expenditures through present, Federal and non-Federal cost sharing responsibilities, we estimate **\$27,815,730** Federal funds to be available, based on Task Force approvals to date.
 - c. Status of Construction Funds for Cash Flow Management (pg 5-6). Status of funds reflecting current, approved estimates and potential Phase 2 estimates for PPL's 1 through 11 and potential Phase 1 requirements for complex projects.
 - d. Cash Flow Funding Forecast.
 - i. Schedules agencies will request Phase 1 (for complex projects) and Phase 2 funding approval (pg 7-8).
 - ii. Phase 2 funding requirements reflected by FY (pg 9-13). (Grand Total, pg 13)
 - iii. Anticipated Funding of Remaining Balances (pg 14)
 - e. Construction Program Potential Cost Changes (pg 15-16). This table depicts potential future construction program cost increases and decreases affecting available Federal funds. If these increases and decreases are taken into consideration, **\$40,316,650** in Federal funds will be available at the end of September 2002 (end of FY02).
 - f. Projects Returning Excess Funds (p17). A total of **\$3,564,857** may be returned from projects that have completed or almost completed construction.
 - g. Analysis of Construction Funds (p18). This table analyzes Federal and non-Federal cost sharing responsibilities as determined by the current approved project estimates.
 - h. Analysis of Construction Program Estimates, Obligations, & Expenditures by PPL(p19-22)

- i. Construction Schedule (p23-27). Construction start schedule with construction estimates, obligations and expenditures.
- j. CWPPRA Project Status Summary Report (pg 28-). This report is comprised of project information from the CWPPRA database as furnished by the lead agencies.

TAB E

TAB E

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

REPORT

**CWPPRA FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW and
TASK FORCE DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PRIORITY PROJECT LISTS**

For Information

Mr. Miller will deliver a presentation covering CWPPRA funding and expenditures. This is an update of a presentation provided to the Task Force last spring.

For Discussion

Following the presentation, the Task Force will have the opportunity to discuss the size of future priority lists and funding decisions.

Breaux Act Funding Status

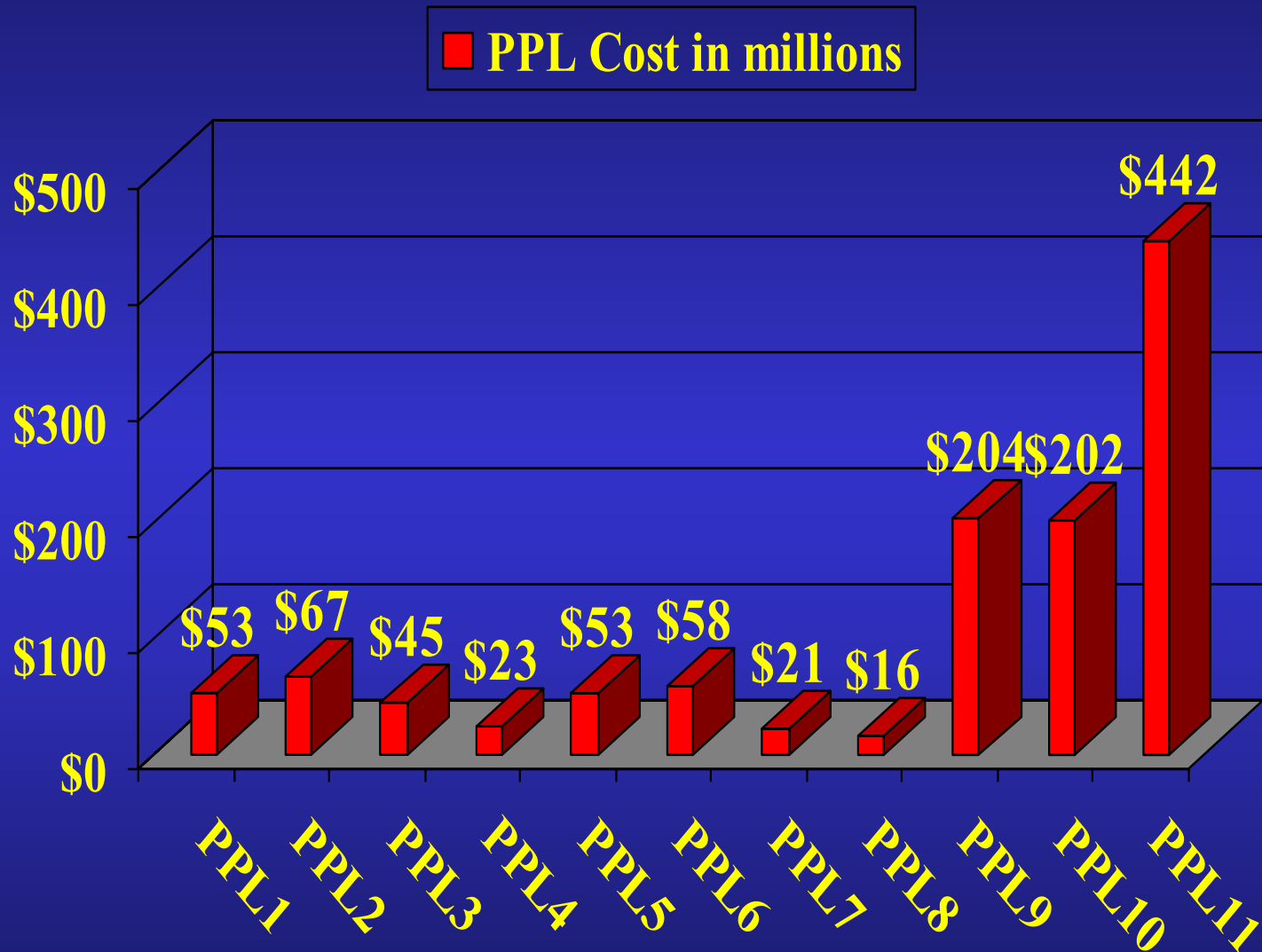


CWPPRA Funding Thru 2009

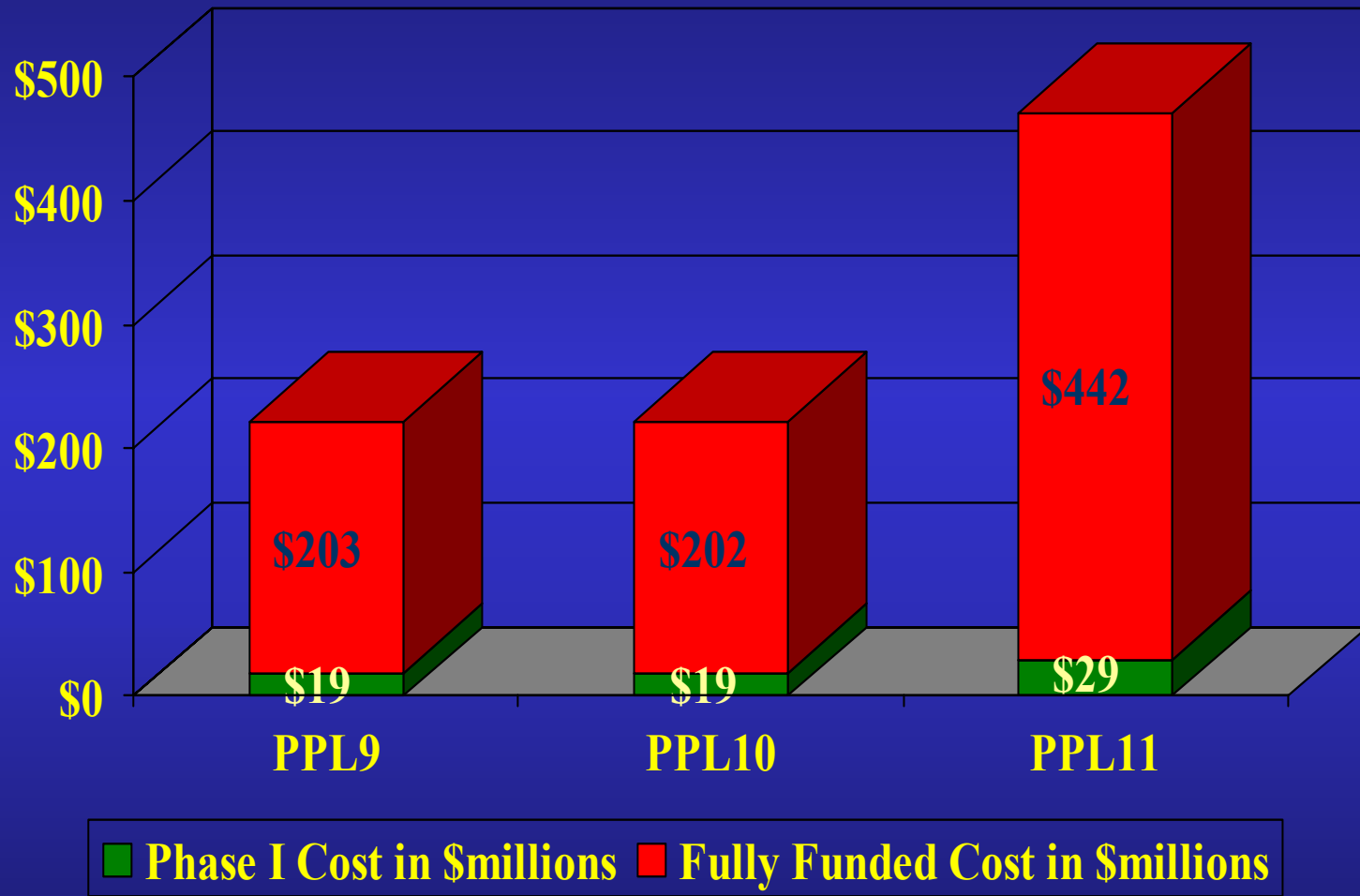
YEAR	FUNDS AVAILABLE	YEAR	FUNDS AVAILABLE
1992	\$28,084,900	2001	\$47,659,220
1993	\$28,173,110	2002	\$57,332,369
1994	\$29,939,100	2003	\$53,086,000
1995	\$29,597,533	2004	\$55,732,000
1996	\$33,371,625	2005	\$55,500,000
1997	\$39,134,000	2006	\$55,500,000
1998	\$42,540,715	2007	\$55,500,000
1999	\$41,864,079	2008	\$55,500,000
2000	\$47,907,300	2009	\$55,500,000

Funding levels from 2003-2009 are projected. Annual totals do not include state matching share. Total funds available is \$812,281,951

Cost Growth of Annual Priority Lists



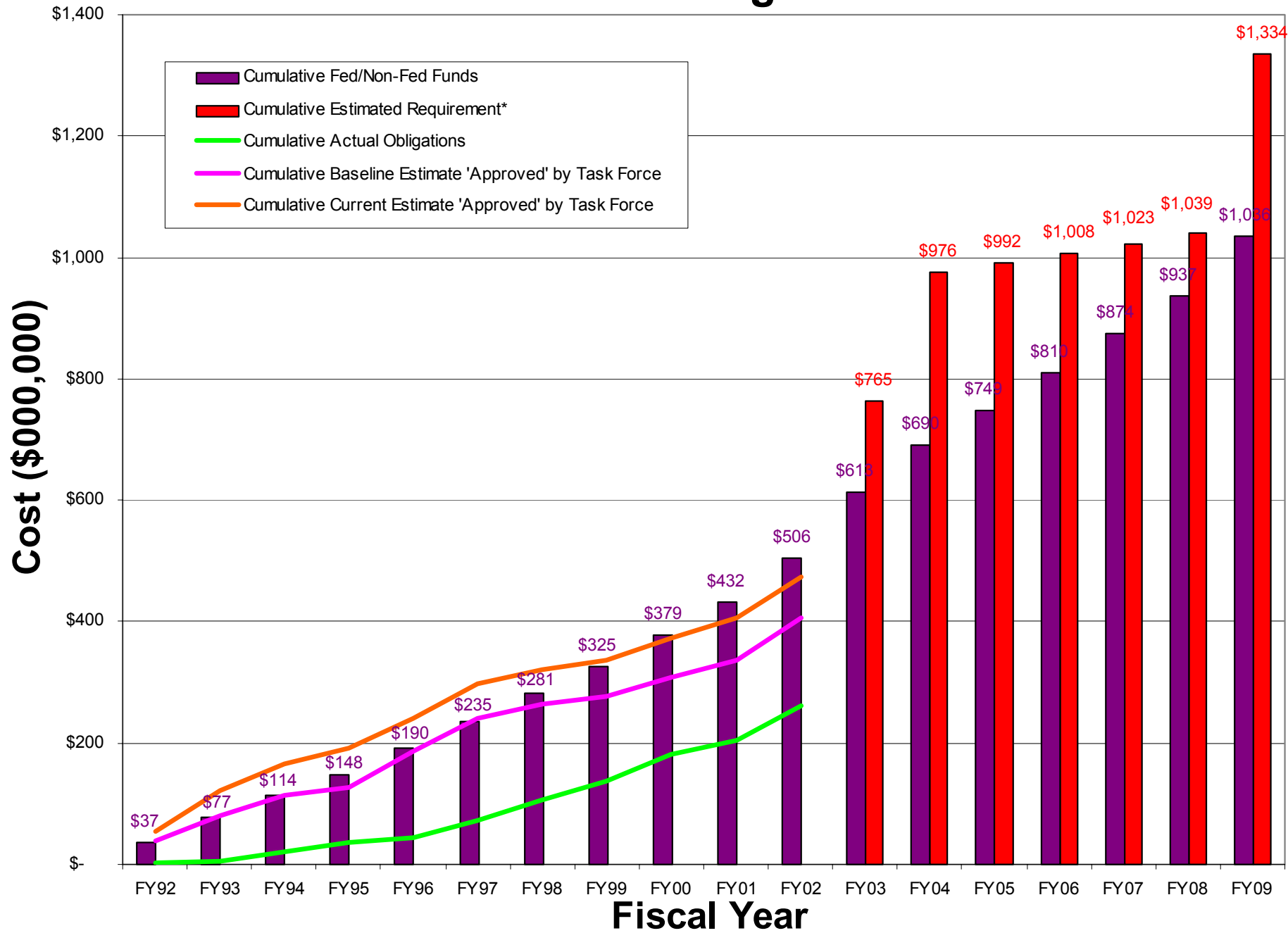
Cash-Flow Project Cost Estimates (PPL9-11)



CWPPRA Funds Available

- Between 1991 - 2009, \$812 million of Federal funding is projected to be available for CWPPRA construction
- Current estimate to construct all 140 projects on PPL 1-PPL 11 is \$1.33 billion
- A projected shortfall of \$312 million exists to construct all PPL 1 – PPL 11 projects
- As currently authorized, CWPPRA can afford only 77% of the estimated Federal construction costs for PPL 1 – PPL 11
- Authorizing future priority lists will contribute to the projected funding shortfall

CWPPRA Funding Status



What does this mean?

- Current and future Federal appropriations fall short of the funding needed to construct all of the projects selected on PPL 1- PPL 11
- Without additional funding, projects will have to be prioritized and constructed as funds become available
- Additional funding mechanisms, such as the Water Resources Development Act, need to be pursued to build larger restoration projects
- The Task Force continues to assess program status and provide guidance on the development of future priority lists

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2003 PLANNING BUDGET

For Decision

The agencies have developed program and planning budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year. The Technical Committee recommends approval the FY03 Planning Budget.

Recommendation of the Technical Committee

The committee recommends approval of \$5,303,450 for the FY03 Planning Budget.

**Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act
Proposed Fiscal Year 2003 Planning Schedule and Budget
P&E Committee Recommendation,
Tech Committee Recommendation,
Approved by Task Force,**

23-Sep-02

NOTE: Number shown in parentheses in line item tasks represents the number of meetings for that task.

CWPPRA COSTS																		
Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	Dept. of Interior					State of Louisiana				EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.						
PPL 12 TASKS																		
PL	12100	Env/Eng/MonWG's evaluates all projects. Env/Eng/MonWG's refine goals and objectives of projects .	10/1/02	10/20/02	12,000	11,232	897				5,170			7,000	8,269	9,200		53,768
PL	12120	Env/Eng/MonWG's review Coast 2050 Criteria Score.	10/23/02	10/27/02	6,733	5,972					2,290		1,500	1,609	5,195	5,500		28,799
PL	12200	Prepare project information packages for P&E.	10/30/02	11/3/02	10,634	7,962					2,425			2,000	4,884	4,800		32,705
PL	12300	P&E holds 3 Public Hearings	11/6/02	11/10/02	27,268	6,256					3,025		3,000	2,080	5,756	2,400		49,785
PL	12400	TC Recommendation for Project Selection and Funding	11/24/02	11/29/02	10,772	6,967					1,195		1,500	1,600	3,478	2,400		27,912
PL	12500	TF Selection and Funding of the 12th PPL (1)	1/16/03	1/16/02	11,956	5,118					1,390		1,500	1,752	4,175	5,500		31,391
PL	12600	PPL 12 Report Development	1/11/03	7/31/03	32,414	1,991					4,345			1,001	6,326	1,000		47,077
PL	12700	Upward Submittal of the PPL 12 Report	8/1/03	8/1/03	9,650													9,650
PL	12900	Submission of the PPL 12 Report to Congress	8/2/03	9/30/03	4,656						345							5,001
FY03 Subtotal PL 12 Tasks					126,083	45,498	897	0	0		20,185	0	7,500	17,042	38,083	30,800	0	286,088

**Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act
Proposed Fiscal Year 2003 Planning Schedule and Budget
P&E Committee Recommendation,
Tech Committee Recommendation,
Approved by Task Force,**

23-Sep-02

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Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	Dept. of Interior					State of Louisiana			EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.					
PPL 13 TASKS																	
PL	13100	Selection of Strategies															
PL	13110	COE prepares spreadsheet listing status of all coastal restoration projects	10/1/02	12/31/02	13,008								1,000	2,844	2,400		19,252
PL	13120	DNR/USGS prepares base maps of project areas, location of completed projects and projected loss by 2050. Develop a comprehensive coastal LA map showing all water resource and restoration projects (CWPPRA, state, WRDA projects, etc.) [NWRC budget included in Misc 13150]	11/1/02	1/31/03	5,813	1,137				8,795			1,000	3,847			20,592
PL	13200	Development and Nomination of Projects															
PL	13210	Sponsoring agencies prepare fact sheets and maps prior to and following RPT nomination meetings.	3/31/03	6/30/03	24,724	28,720				13,210			53,000	29,965	35,300		184,919
PL	13230	RPT's meet to formulate and combine projects. Each region nominates no more than 3 projects (4 meetings) [18 nominees (2 per basin); 8 candidates; 4 approved projects]	5/1/03	5/31/03	26,321	11,374				9,200		2,000	22,560	8,508	7,700		87,663
PL	13300	Ranking of Nominated Projects															
PL	13301	Environmental WG to revise Coast 2050 criteria. WVA models, etc. Update and improve new Barrier Island WVA model. (One or 2 meetings of the Environ WG)	10/1/02	9/30/03	8,304	7,109				1,185			3,340	7,537	3,500		30,975
PL	13310	Engr Work Group prepares preliminary fully funded cost ranges for projects	6/1/03	6/30/03	11,935	2,844				2,935			3,000	5,199	2,800		28,713
PL	13320	Environ/Engr Work Groups apply 2050 criteria to projects	7/1/03	7/31/03	11,935	5,403				2,145			3,000	3,902	2,400		28,785
PL	13330	P&E develops and distributes project matrix	7/1/03	7/31/03	10,730	1,706				1,970			2,640	1,924	1,050		20,020

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.						
PL	13400	Selection of Candidates																
PL	13410	Tech Committee selects candidates	7/1/03	7/31/03	11,494	3,981					2,620		2,000	1,640	2,606	2,800		27,141
PL	13500	Analysis of Candidates																
PL	13510	Sponsoring agencies coordinate site visits for all projects	8/1/03	9/30/03	29,998	18,057					5,640			8,000	16,664	12,100		90,459
PL	13520	Engr/Environ Work Group refine project features and determine boundaries	8/1/03	9/30/03	21,033	13,365		1,000			2,765		1,000	6,000	11,779	11,900		68,842
PL	13530	Sponsoring agencies develop project information for WVA; develop designs and cost estimates	8/1/02	9/30/03	72,165	32,417	11,188				13,990			10,000	37,995	32,000		209,755
PL	13540	Environ/Engr Work Groups project evaluation of benefits (with Coast 2050 criteria, etc.)	8/1/03	9/30/02	14,548	26,872		3,000			4,225		1,000	6,000	17,905	11,500		85,050
PL	13550	Engr Work Group reviews/approves Ph 1 and Ph 2 cost estimates from evaluating agencies	8/1/03	9/30/03	52,611	3,981					1,725			3,000	8,514	7,900		77,731
PL	13560	Economic Work Group reviews cost estimates, adds monitoring, O&M, etc., and develops annualized costs	8/1/03	9/30/03	10,266	1,706					880			1,500	9,434	3,500		27,286
PL	13570	Oyster Issues in Phases 0 and 1. Includes: development of regulations for CWPPRA projects; meetings/conferences with leaseholders; developing case by case designs/costs/procedures, etc.	8/1/03	9/30/03	96,284						19,710			1,000	6,545	5,000		128,539
PL	13580	Engineering & Environmental Working Groups revisions for Phase II funding of approved Phase I projects (Needed for adequate review of Phase I.) [Assume 10 projects requesting Ph II funding in FY03 (present schedule indicates 20 projects). Assume 5 will require Eng or Env WG review; 2 labor days for each. Did not include COE - sponsored projects because any additional review for those would be charged to project budgets.] [This was previously SPE 13700]	8/1/203	9/30/03	5,000	3,128					1,685			6,000	8,429	2,255		26,497
FY03 Subtotal PL 13 Tasks					426,169	161,800	11,188	4,000	0		92,680	0	6,000	132,680	183,597	144,105	0	1,162,219

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Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	Dept. of Interior					State of Louisiana			EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total	
					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.						
Project and Program Management Tasks																		
PM	13010	Program Management--Coordination	10/1/02	9/30/03	225,196	72,228	2,157	1,000			73,395		2,000	152,000	87,864	89,845		705,685
PM	13020	Program Management--Correspondence	10/01/02	09/30/03	34,984	18,554					10,945			33,800	21,179	74,845		194,307
PM	13030	Prog Mgmt--Budget Development and Oversight	10/01/02	09/30/03	75,779	9,739					25,400			30,000	34,753	49,000		224,671
PM	13040	Program and Project Management--Financial Management of Non-Cash Flow Projects	10/01/02	09/30/03	39,511	10,948					12,415			5,312	8,119	25,245		101,550
PE	13010	P&E Meetings (7 mtngs; prep and attendance)	10/01/02	09/30/03	34,704	16,209	3,502				6,950		3,000	25,000	17,040	12,100		118,505
RP	13010	Corps Prepares and Submits Revisions to Rest. Plan	10/01/02	09/30/03	8,020									500				8,520
SC	13010	Steering Com Mtngs (4 mtngs; prep and attend) (includes complex project review)	10/01/02	09/30/03	8,249	5,687					3,000		3,000	10,000	7,019	5,500		42,455
TC	13010	Tech Com Mtngs (6 mtngs; prep and attend)	10/01/02	09/30/03	49,124	28,009	3,502				13,745		5,000	15,000	18,225	24,200		156,805
TF	13010	Task Force mtngs (4 mtngs; prep and attend)	10/01/02	09/30/03	65,305	25,735	3,502				13,435		9,000	13,000	19,198	27,000		176,175
ER	13010	Prepare Evaluation Report (Report to Cong)	10/01/02	09/30/03	9,938		2,157				61,615		8,500	800	7,627	6,200		96,837
CN	13010	State Consistency Determination	10/01/02	09/30/03	3,947													3,947
WG	13010	Eng, Env, and Eco Work Groups Review 30% Design for Phase 1 Projects	10/01/02	09/30/03	32,259	10,806					1,730			23,800	9,860	8,500		86,955
MS	13100	Helicopter Support. Helicopter usage for the PPL process.	10/01/02	09/30/03		18,000												18,000
MS	13010	Miscellaneous Technical Support	10/01/02	09/30/03	39,433	7,393					95,145		29,500			23,245		194,716
FY03 Subtotal Project Management Tasks					626,449	223,308	14,820	1,000	0		317,775	0	60,000	309,212	230,884	345,680	0	2,129,128
FY03 Total for PPL Tasks					1,178,701	430,606	26,905	5,000	0		430,640	0	73,500	458,934	452,564	520,585	0	3,577,435

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.						
SUPPLEMENTAL PLANNING AND EVALUATION TASKS																		
SPE	13150	Link Project Quarterly Status reports and website project fact sheets. [Prospectus, page 23]	10/1/02	9/30/03	15,000	4,763	78,923				1,000			3,000	4,575	4,155	111,416	
SPE	13200	Adaptive Management Completion.	10/1/02	9/30/03		0	15,496				32,615			26,000	25,810	8,155	108,076	
SPE	13650	Development of Breaux Act oyster relocation plan. Oyster Ad-Hoc committee meetings to determine oyster lease policies for CWPPRA projects.	10/1/02	9/30/03	6,700	3,555					29,880			2,000	3,368	2,255	47,758	
SPE	13600	Establish linkage of CWPPRA and 2050 study efforts. [Buy a seat at 2050 feasibility study table.]	10/1/02	9/30/03		100,000								100,000	100,000	100,000	400,000	
SPE	13900	Joint Training of CWPPRA Work Groups. [Agency representatives would participate in training sessions focusing on subjects and issues pertinent to the group development and evaluation of coastal wetlands restoration projects. Examples of potential classes include coastal vegetation planting, dredging project design, marsh creation, hydrologic design, habitat analysis, integrated desktop GIS for resource managers. [Prospectus, page ____]	10/1/02	9/30/03	37,585	15,213	5,000				11,745		3,500	8,000	8,790	8,155	97,988	
FY03 Total Supplemental Planning & Evaluation Tasks					59,285	123,531	99,419	0	0		75,240	0	3,500	139,000	142,543	122,720	0	765,238
FY03 Agency Tasks Grand Total					1,237,986	554,137	126,324	5,000	0		505,880	0	77,000	597,934	595,107	643,305	0	4,342,673

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.					
Otrch	13100	Outreach - Committee Funding	10/1/02	9/30/03												344,500	344,500
Otrch	13200	Outreach - Agency	10/1/02	9/30/03	4,000	2,000	26,000			4,000		4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000		52,000
Otrch	13300	New Initiative -	10/1/02	9/30/03													0
Otrch	13400	New Initiative -	10/1/02	9/30/03													0
Otrch	13500	New Initiative -	10/1/02	9/30/03													0
Otrch	13600	New Initiative -	10/1/02	9/30/03													0
FY03 Total Outreach					4,000	2,000	26,000	0	0	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	344,500	396,500

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.					
Misc	13100	Academic Advisory Group	10/1/02	9/30/03												100,000	100,000
Misc	13200	Core GIS Support for CWPPRA Task Force Planning Activities. NOTE: This is a new task. NWRC combines 3 tasks into this one item: MS 13010 Misc Tech Support; SPE 13100-Desktop GIS System; and PL 13120 Comprehensive Coastal LA Map) [Prospectus, pg 18]	10/1/02	9/30/03		1,422	261,876				2,000						265,298
Misc	13300	Landsat Satellite Imagery Multi-temporal/Multi-seasonal Trend Assessment of Land Loss and Gain Variability Within the Deltaic Plain. [This task replaces Misc 13500 GIS Satellite Imagery. [Prospectus, pg 19]	10/1/02	9/30/03			42,500										42,500
Misc	13400	Oyster Lease Database Maintenance and Analysis	10/1/02	9/30/03			60,679				3,800						64,479
Misc	13700	Continuing the operation of key Terrebonne Basin continuous recording stations where funding is soon to expire (this summer). Maintenance of these, along with Barataria Basin stations, will be critical in planning and evaluating the larger scale projects which will be needed in these areas. [This would involve about 5 continuous salinity and water level stations for about \$100,000 for 1 year. One is at the GIWW at Larose, another is on the HNC near Dulac. The existing stations belong to the Corps, USGS and NRCS. The Tech and P&E asked if the FWS could add this task to the Terrebonne Basin Freshwater Introduction complex project currently under development. If not, it may possibly be included as a Misc Tech task. [Prospectus, pg 20]	10/1/02	9/30/03						92,000							92,000
FY03 Total Miscellaneous					0	1,422	365,055	0	92,000		5,800	0	0	0	0	0	564,277
Grand Total FY03					1,241,986	557,559	517,379	5,000	92,000		515,680	0	81,000	601,934	599,107	647,305	5,303,450

**Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act
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Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	Dept. of Interior					State of Louisiana						
					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS Woods Hole	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.	EPA	USDA	USDC	Other

NOTES:

PL 13580 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: New task. Previously this task was SPE 13700 under the supplemental tasks.

SPE 13100 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Desktop GIS: Task deleted. Existing funding moved to Misc 13200.

SPE 13200 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Adaptive Management: Previous SPE 13200 a, b, d and e combined into 1 line item. SPE 13200 c deleted.

SPE 13650 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Development of Oyster Relocation Plan. Task for legal services for promulgation of oyster regs was deleted; budgets transferred to this task.

SPE 13700 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Task deleted; new task PL 13580 created under PL activities.

SPE 13750 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Evaluate and Assess Vegetative Plantings Coastwide. Task deleted.

Misc 13200 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: New task. Previous SPE 13100 deleted. Budgets transferred to new task.

Misc 13500 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: GIS Satellite Imagery. Task deleted.

Misc 13010 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Helicopter Support. Task moved to PPL task under Project Management, MS 13100.

Misc 13200 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Digital Soils. Task deleted.

Misc 13600 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Aerial Photography and CD Production. Task deleted.

SPE 13900 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Joint Training Contract. Task deleted.

Misc 13900 16 Jul 02, Tech Committee: Legal services for promulgation of oyster regs. Task deleted. Budgets transferred to SPE 13650.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

REQUEST FOR PROJECT CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL

West Bay Sediment Diversion (MR-03)

For Decision

Mr. Saia will present the Technical Committee's recommendation that approval be granted for constructing the West Bay Sediment Diversion project in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The revised fully funded cost of the project is \$22,306,712.

Recommendation of the Technical Committee

The Task Force should approve \$22,306,712 for construction of the West Bay Sediment Diversion Project (MR-03) to create 8,932 acres of wetlands in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVN-PM-C (1110-2-1150a)

17 September 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Thomas J. Podany, Chairman, CWPPRA P&E Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Construction Approval Request for West Bay Sediment Diversion Project (MR-03), Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

1. As required by Section 6(i) of the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures Manual, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) request approval to construct the subject project.
2. The following information summarizes completion of the tasks required prior to seeking authorization for project construction:
 - a. Description of the project. Initial construction of the project is designed to divert 20,000 cfs from the Mississippi River into West Bay. Hydraulic performance monitoring will be conducted to determine the need to enlarge the diversion to 50,000 cfs in a second construction event. The diversion is designed to introduce freshwater, nutrients and sediment to restore an estimated 9,832 acres of deltaic wetlands. Additional details and a project area map are provided in the attached fact sheet.
 - b. Section 303(e) Certification. Compliance of the project with CWPPRA Section 303(e) was certified on 17 September 2002 through an internal CEMVN memorandum.
 - c. Overgrazing determination. By letter dated 16 September 2002, the Natural Resources Conservation Service concluded that overgrazing is not a problem in the project area.
 - d. Cost estimate. The fully funded cost of the project is estimated at \$22,306,712. This estimate exceeds the original PPL1 cost estimate and was approved by vote of the Task Force on 16 April 2002.
 - e. Signed cost sharing agreement. The cost sharing agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources was executed on 6 September 2002.
 - f. NEPA compliance. A Record of Decision was signed on 18 March 2002 establishing that all practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the project plans. A Final Environmental Impact Statement was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on 31 December 2001.

TAB H

- g. Annual project expenditures. The current schedule and associated annual expenditures are provided in the attached table. In summary, relocation of the pipeline is scheduled for this fall and initial construction will begin in early 2003 depending upon Mississippi River stages.

- 3. If you have any questions regarding the plan, please call Mr. Gregory Miller at 862-2310.

GREGORY MILLER
Project Manager
Coastal Restoration Branch

Enclosures (2)

West Bay Sediment Diversion (MR-3)
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana
Mississippi River Delta

Lead Agency:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Project Location:	The diversion site is located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, on the west bank of the Mississippi River at Mile 4.7 Above Head of Passes (AHP), and would divert water and sediments into West Bay, on the west side of the River.
Project Purpose:	The project objective is to restore vegetated wetlands in shallow open water. Plans call for the diversion of riverine sediments and fresh water to create, nourish, and maintain about 9,831 acres of fresh to intermediate marsh in the West Bay area over the 20-year project life.
Project Features:	The project includes a conveyance channel for a large uncontrolled diversion of water and sediments from the River. The sediment diversion channel would be constructed in two phases: 1) Construction of an interim diversion channel to accommodate a discharge of 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the 50 percent duration stage of the Mississippi River, and 2) Modification of the interim diversion channel design to accommodate full-scale diversion of 50,000 cfs at the 50 percent duration stage of the Mississippi River immediately upon completion of a period of intensive monitoring of diversion operations. Prior to construction of the diversion channel, a large natural gas pipeline located in the outfall channel pathway will be lowered for safety reasons. Contingency plans for closing the diversion conveyance channel would be implemented if hydrographic monitoring of the Mississippi River navigation channel indicates the thalweg of the river is migrating toward the diversion channel or if the shoaling substantially increases in the navigation channel downstream of the diversion. Modeling indicates that the sediment diversion would induce shoaling between river miles 1.5 and 5.0 AHP in the navigation channel of the Mississippi River; operation and maintenance funds have been set aside to address shoaling in the Pilottown Anchorage Area associated with the diversion.
Project Costs:	The estimated cost of the project, including real estate, environmental compliance, engineering and design, relocations, construction, monitoring, and O&M expenses, is \$22,306,712.00
Information:	Additional information on this project is available on the LACOAST.GOV website or may be obtained by contacting Gregory Miller at 504-862-2310 or Gregory.B.Miller@mvn02.usace.army.mil .

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

**REQUEST FOR DEAUTHORIZATION OF THE UPPER OAK RIVER FRESH WATER
INTRODUCTION PROJECT**

Background

At the August 2002 meeting, the Task Force voted to initiate procedures to deauthorize the subject project because of land rights issues and other factors. The Chairman sent notice to the Louisiana Congressional delegation, the State House and Senate Natural Resources Committee chairs, the State Senator and State Representative in whose district the project falls, senior parish officials in the parish where the Project is located, and landowners whose property would be directly affected by the Project. No comments have been received concerning the proposal to deauthorize the project.

Recommendation of the Technical Committee

Previously, the Technical Committee recommended that the Task Force approve the initiation of procedures to deauthorize the project.

For Decision

The Task Force may to decide to deauthorize the project.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana
71302

February 19, 2002

Jack Caldwell
Secretary
Louisiana Department of natural Resources
P.O. Box 94396
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9393

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

RE: Upper Oak River Freshwater Introduction Siphon Project (BS-09)

In reply to your letter of October 30, 2001 regarding the above project, you are correct that NRCS policy does not include payment for property or acquisition of landrights in the budgets of projects for which NRCS is the federal sponsor. Therefore, federal sponsorship of the proposed project by NRCS is precluded by Mr. Clyde Giordano's requirement of compensation for the use of his land for freshwater conveyance and discharge.

NRCS has carefully considered the several problems that have been identified during the project development process and has taken into account the additional information gathered by personnel of both of our agencies. In addition to the landowner requiring payment for landrights, some of the more serious problems include the landowner's requirement of subsurface conveyance, his objection to the required disturbance of an existing ridge, and the proximity of the proposed conveyance channel location to a newly built church. As a result, NRCS recommends that this project be removed from the CWPPRA process and be deauthorized.

Please let me know if you concur and NRCS will initiate formal deauthorization procedures.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Gohmert
State Conservationist

TAB I

**Upper Oak River Freshwater Introduction
PBS-1
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana
Breton Sound**



Project Authority: The project was authorized by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Public Law 101-646, Title III) on the 8th Priority List.

Project Location & Size: The project is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish 6 miles south of the Belle Chase Ferry and approximately 1/2 mile south of Bertrandville. The project area consists of approximately 5,000 acres.

Project Objectives:

- Introduce Freshwater and sediment from the Mississippi River through a siphon system
- Reduce the rate of land loss
- Increase vegetative diversity in the project area
- Increase submerged aquatic vegetation
- Increase dissolved oxygen levels in the water (especially in the northwestern corner)
- Increase emergent vegetation through vegetative plantings

Project Features:

- Construct a 1,000 cfs capacity freshwater siphon
- Construct an opening through an existing ridge to allow water to flow to the east Oaks Ridge and to the south
- Construct openings through abandoned board road
- Vegetative plantings in some interior ponds

Project Status: The fully funded cost estimate for this project is \$12.5 million, however, \$2.5 million was allocated from the 8th List for design of the siphon and construction of the outfall channel. Construction is projected for October 2001.

Information provided by Federal project sponsor.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

REPORT ON OUTREACH COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

For Information and Discussion

Mrs. Bodin will report on the Breaux Act outreach program.

**The Coastal Wetlands Planning,
Protection and Restoration Act (Breaux Act)
Public Outreach Committee**



**Annual Report
September 2002**

Included in this report:

Executive Summary of Annual Accomplishments

Annual Accomplishments (October 2001 – September 2002)

- **Strategic Plan**
- **Dedication Ceremony**
- **Public Outreach Committee Projects**
- **Media**
- **Educational Workshops**
- **Conference Participation**
- **Other Activities**
- **Upcoming Projects**

Accomplishments for 4th Quarter FY 02 (detailed quarterly report)

- **Meetings**
- **Executive**
- **National**
- **Local**
- **Outreach Project Updates**
- **Articles**

New Strategic Initiatives

- **Summary**
- **“Protect the Purchase”**
- **Video News Releases**
- **“Louisiana Wetlands Functions and Values” CD-ROM Update**

**Breaux Act Outreach Committee
Annual Report
October 2001 – September 2002**

Executive Summary

The federal CWPPRA agencies and the state, along with our other agency and NGO partners have worked together to educate many various members of the public about coastal wetland loss and the importance of restoration. The committee continuously reviews the program and strategies to identify areas of possible growth and improvement. The program has had many successes this past year.

The largest Breaux Act dedication ceremony to date was held Friday, December 14, 2001. It celebrated the dedication of eight projects sponsored by NRCS, FWS, NMFS, and the Corps. Over 160 people were in attendance including federal, state, and local officials as well as the general public. Helicopter tours were held for the media as well as for officials. Representatives from the offices of Breaux, Landrieu, and John were in attendance and participated in the helicopter tour. In attendance from the state legislature were Sen. Willie Mount, Sen. Don Hines, Sen. Gerald Theunissen, Rep. Daniel Flavin, and Rep. Wilfred Pierre, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. Media coverage included print and television broadcast throughout the state. A video news release funded by the Task Force as a special initiative last year greatly increased television broadcast coverage.

Several projects have been completed with great success and other on-going projects have achieved success and continued growth. Sidney Coffee has held numerous meetings in Washington with legislators and high-ranking government officials to provide information and education about Louisiana's coastal wetland loss problem. The committee's radio campaign included spots recorded by Senator Breaux that were aired throughout the state. The Breaux Act Newsflash has grown to include over 600 subscribers and is looked to by many, including members of the media, for coastal wetland events and information. Since the release of the "Explore Coastal Louisiana" CD-ROM in May 2000, over 13,000 CDs have been distributed through teacher workshops, conferences, and LaCoast statewide, nationally, and internationally. And, during this fiscal year, 24 educational workshops have been presented to 533 educators and we distributed information to the public at 17 additional conferences and events.

The amount of media coverage for coastal wetland loss in Louisiana has seen a recent surge. It includes national coverage by the Public Broadcast System, National Public Radio, *Scientific American*, *Ducks Unlimited*, and *National Wildlife*, as well as increased coverage throughout the state including northeast Louisiana. It included 98 print articles mentioning CWPPRA or CWPPRA projects since October 2001 and numerous television news stories.

Hearings held by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission in New Orleans this year garnered attention. Several national conferences and events to be held in New Orleans next year will also provide valuable avenues for educating the public, including the Society of Environmental Journalists.

The committee will continue to work on projects such as the Interpretive Topic Series. Cooperative Extension has completed three fact sheets and is working to produce three more. The continuing task of gathering and interpreting project and program information has led to the completion of CWPPRA Project Fact Sheets for completed projects, a necessity for a program such as CWPPRA. They are currently being printed. The remaining fact sheets for projects in phases 1 and 2 will be completed soon. A multi-agency, multi-project dedication ceremony for the south-central coastal area is currently being planned. CWPPRA Public Outreach will continue with these tasks and many others in its mission to educate and engage our target audiences and build support for coastal wetland restoration.

**Breaux Act Public Outreach Committee
Annual Report to the Task Force
October 2001 – September 2002**

Strategic Plan

The Outreach Committee's Strategic Plan runs from 2001 – 2006 and is a living document. An industry audience was added last year. The objective is to "increase awareness within industries, such as oil and gas, navigation, agriculture and tourism, of the affects of coastal wetland loss." The committee plans to use a variety of national industry conferences scheduled for south Louisiana in upcoming year to address this audience.

Largest Breaux Act Dedication Ceremony to Date:

Southwest Louisiana Breaux Act Project Dedication: The event was held Friday, December 14. It celebrated the dedication of eight projects sponsored by NRCS, FWS, NMFS, and the Corps. **Over 160 people were in attendance** including federal, state, and local officials as well as the general public. A media helicopter tour was held at 9:00 am and the program began at 10:00 am. Lunch was then served and helicopter tours were conducted for officials. The coordinator was in contact with each the offices of Breaux, Landrieu, John, and Tauzin during the planning stages. **Representatives from the offices of Breaux, Landrieu, and John were in attendance and participated in the helicopter tour.** All members of the **Louisiana legislature** were invited to the dedication ceremony. They were informed of the dedication of the eight projects through the invitation. In attendance from the state legislature were **Sen. Willie Mount, Sen. Don Hines, Sen. Gerald Theunissen, Rep. Daniel Flavin, and Rep. Wilfred Pierre, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.**

Media coverage included **front-page coverage** in the **American Press, Southwest Daily News,** and the **Daily Advertiser.** The Daily Advertiser used it as their front-page story for the Sunday edition.

A **video news release** produced by **Hometown Productions (one of the new initiatives funded in October by the Task Force)** had a high rate of success. It was aired on: **New Orleans: WWL, WVUE; Baton Rouge: WBRZ, WAFB, WBTR; Alexandria: KLAX, KLFY; Lafayette - Lake Charles: KLFY, KPLC, KVHP, KDCG (Opelousas); Houma – Thibodaux – Morgan City: HTV, KWBJ.**

A 30-minute video, produced as part of the video news release effort, heavily aired throughout the state during December and January and continues to be in some markets.

Public Outreach Committee Projects

Breaux Act Newsflash:

Between October 2001 and September 2002, 72 Newsflashes were distributed. The list of subscribers, which includes legislative, media, agency, and general public, has grown to 676. Many people have sent emails thanking us for the information and many others have personally told us of its value to them.

LaCoast Web site:

LaCoast received 183,322 visitors between January 1, 1002 and September 17, 2002. The coordinator is often directly contacted for information from people (from general public, to media, to educators) who have visited the web site and want to know more.

***WaterMarks*:**

The recent effort focused on covering each Coast 2050 Region. Regions 1 through 4 have now been produced. An issue featuring the Coast 2050 Feasibility Study was also released this year.

“Restoring Coastal Louisiana”:

This Winter 2000 issue of *WaterMarks*, which is used as our main public document, has been reprinted.

Web site Cards:

The committee has produced and printed 8,000 LaCoast web site cards for use as a promotional item.

“Coast 2050 Executive Summary”:

The committee partnered with the state to reproduce copies of this document for future outreach efforts.

CWPPRA Project and Program Fact Sheets: The fact sheets are general overview fact sheets targeted for the general public, state and national legislators, and other interested parties. The 38 completed project fact sheets. We previously had completed and printed the 15 PPL 11 project fact sheets and the eight fact sheets used for the December 2001 dedication ceremony. This will give us a total of 61 fact sheets that have been printed. We are currently reviewing fact sheets for projects that are in the engineering/design and construction phases. The coordinator worked with the state and federal agencies to develop a complete correct list of all of the projects with their corresponding project numbers.

Interpretive Topic Series Fact Sheets: Three of the series of six CWPPRA issue sheets have been printed. They are: “‘Closing’ The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet: Environmental and Economic Considerations,” “Fisheries Implications of Freshwater Re-Introductions,” and “Mississippi River Water Quality: Implications for Coastal Restoration.” The fact sheets are available at conferences and by request and are also available via LaCoast. Several derivative publications have been produced. Presentations

have been and continue to be given at several local, regional, and national conferences by Seagrant staff and others using this information.

Presentations based on the ITS Fact Sheets include ;

"Fisheries and Fishermen: The Opportunity for a Third Delta - A Technical Review" (2002) Schexnayder, M. and R. Caffey, Nichols State University, September 17, 2002.

Reconciling Fisheries Management and Wetland Restoration in Coastal Louisiana"(2002). Coauthored with M. Schexnayder, The Coastal Society 2002 Conference, Converging Currents: Science, Policy, and Culture at the Coast, Galveston, TX, May 19 - 22, 2002.

"Floods, Fisheries, and River Diversions in Coastal Louisiana" (2002). Coauthored with M. Schexnayder. *Coastal Water Resources*, a specialty conference of the American Water Resources Association, May 13-15, 2002, New Orleans, La.

"Diversions, Anti-diversions, and Coastal Fisheries in Louisiana" co-authored with M. Schexnayder (2002). Basics of the Basin Research Symposium and the Gulf Estuarine Research Society, May 16-17, 2002, University of New Orleans.

"Economic and Environmental Implications of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet" (2002) Co-authored with R. Gaude, B. D. Leblanc, and M. Schexnayder. Basics of the Basin Research Symposium and the Gulf Estuarine Research Society, May 16-17, 2002, University of New Orleans.

"Mississippi River Water Quality: Implications for Freshwater Diversions" (2002). Co-authored with B.D. Leblanc, and P.D. Coreil. Proceedings of the Basics of the Basin Research Symposium and the Gulf Estuarine Research Society, May 16-17, 2002, University of New Orleans.

"Affects of Freshwater on Coastal Fisheries" (2002) Acadiana Bays Restoration Meeting, Coauthored with M. Schexnayder, Burden Research Center, April 22, Baton Rouge, La.

"An Overview of Louisiana Sea Grant Extension Issues" (2002) National Sea Grant Assembly of Program Coordinators, Baton Rouge, La March 18, 2002.

"Coastal Restoration and Coastal Fisheries in Louisiana" (2002) The Rotary Club of Alexandria, La, March 19, 2002.

"Natural Capital" (2001), Guest lecture in Environmental Advocacy, Fisheries 7029, Ben Aquaculture Research Experiment Station, Baton Rouge, LA November 2001.

"River Diversions: Will They Affect Fisheries?" International Work Boat Show, New Orleans, La, November 29, 2001

Superbowl Campaign: Exhibits were displayed and personal contacts made at both the National and the International Media Events. BTEF staff also staffed the hospitality booth. Contacts included staff from **ABC Radio, Chicago Tribune, London Sun, and Boston Globe. Producer Dan Steele from Fox** was given an information packet and he expressed an interest in returning to produce a story in the future. Eighteen media representatives attended the tour on February 1. They included staff from the **London Sun, Chicago Tribune, SF Sun Reporter (Las Vegas), Wonn Productions (Los Angeles), ClearChannel Network (Harrisburg, PA), Diario de las America (Miami, Florida), and others, including several German publications.**

30-Second Radio Spot Announcements: The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act spring and summer radio ad campaign is complete. A total of 1,667 thirty-second radio spots were aired on radio stations throughout the state on the Louisiana Network, WJBO radio in Baton Rouge, and WWL radio in New Orleans. WWL radio's coverage extends to 30+ states in the evening hours when the spot was aired. Senator Breaux and his staffers said they were delighted to have participated in this endeavor. Outreach Committee members have received numerous positive reports on the campaign.

Video News Release Campaign: The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act video news release campaign for fiscal year 2002 is also complete. Two video news releases were completed and distributed statewide--one on the southwest Louisiana eight-project dedication and one on the Davis Pond dedication. Both news releases were extremely successful being aired by broadcasting affiliates, during their news broadcasts, in the major cities of Louisiana. A 30-minute video was also produced for each effort. They were each aired throughout the state for four to six weeks. **The Task Force funded this effort as a special initiative.**

“Explore Coastal Louisiana” CD-ROM: Since its release in May 2000, over 13,000 CDs have been distributed through teacher workshops, conferences, and LaCoast statewide, nationally and internationally. Every middle school in Louisiana was mailed a CD in August 2000. On April 24, 2001, the “Explore Coastal Louisiana” CD-ROM was presented with the Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana’s annual **Coastal Stewardship Award** for the media category.

Project Information Management System (PIMS): A system has been developed by the NWRC Electronics Technology Development Team that enables project managers to update project information in the COE’s database that, in turn, updates project information on LaCoast. This system simplifies the process and provides the public with more current project information.

Media

This past year has seen a large increase in media attention concerning Louisiana's coastal wetland loss issue, both nationally and locally. Some highlights are listed below.

National Public Radio (NPR) and the **Public Broadcasting System (PBS)** have aired stories on coastal wetland loss in Louisiana. The radio series on NPR ran in conjunction with a two-part television series on **"NOW with Bill Moyers" on PBS television**. The first part of the television series, "Losing Ground," aired on **Friday, Sept. 6** and kicked off NOW's new fall season. It told the Louisiana coastal wetland loss story. The second part, "The Sinking of New Orleans," aired **Sept. 20** and focused on New Orleans and the potential disaster if a hurricane makes a direct hit. The related three-part series, "Louisiana's Vanishing Wetlands" ran on NPR's *All Things Considered* **Sept. 6, 8, and 9**. Outreach staff provided assistance with visuals as per PBS request. For a transcript of the radio programs, visit: www.npr.org/members/

Ducks Unlimited, the national publication, ran an article, "A View from the Gulf," that included information about coastal Louisiana's land loss problem in their July/August 2002 issue. CWPPRA referenced.

Drowning New Orleans, an article that ran in October 2001 issue of **Scientific American**, described the problems New Orleans is facing because of subsidence and wetland loss. Discusses Coast 2050.

The National Wildlife Federation magazine, **National Wildlife**, featured an article in its April/May 2002 issue entitled "Swamping Louisiana" which discussed La.'s coastal land loss problem and CWPPRA.

The **Houston Chronicle** also ran an article titled, **"Keeping its Head Above Water: New Orleans Faces Doomsday Scenario"**.

Southwest Louisiana Breaux Act Project Dedication: Extensive statewide coverage. See "Dedication" section.

The **Monroe News Star** ran a series of articles in February 2001 under the heading **"Losing Ground"** in the Sunday edition with the informational assistance of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. The series made the connection between coastal wetland loss and north La. It also urged support for coastal restoration.

KNOE (Monroe) aired a 3-part series called "Vanishing Wetlands" also in February 2001 that was filmed in La's coastal zone with the coordination assistance of CWPPRA staff. The producer reported that the series was very successful. They received phone calls and emails from many concerned citizens and requests for educational materials from teachers. **KNOE covers 16 parishes and counties in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi.**

Print coverage since October 2001: 98 articles mentioning CWPPRA (A listing of articles is included in each quarterly report.)
Press releases by CWPPRA Outreach staff: 42

Educational Workshops

Breaux Act staff has presented 24 workshops to 533 educators during the last fiscal year. Since July 1999, we have presented 91 workshops to 2071 educators. We have visited 50 of the 64 parishes. We have received many positive reviews in the form of comments and letters for our educational presentations.

Conference and Event Participation (other than parish educational workshops): 16

10/13/01: **Wild Things**; Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge, LaComb, LA; exhibit and presentation

10/26-27/01: **Louisiana Catholic Educators Conference**; Baton Rouge, LA; exhibit and presentation; 1,000 educators from throughout the state attended the conference.

11/29-12/1/01: **Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LaCUE) Annual Conference**; Alexandria, LA; presentation

11/29-12/1/01: **Louisiana Science Teachers Association Annual Convention**; Baton Rouge; exhibit and presentation

1/26/02: **Geofest 2002**; Alexandria, LA; exhibit and presentation

2/1-2/02: **Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium**; Baton Rouge, LA; exhibit and presentation

2/7/02: **Learn and Serve America**; Natchitoches, LA; exhibit

2/22-23/02: **Louisiana Police Jury Association Annual Conference**; Monroe, LA; exhibit

3/2/02: **Northeast Louisiana Technical Fair**; Winnsboro, LA; exhibit

3/7-8/02: **Tulane Environmental Law Conference**; New Orleans, LA; exhibit

3/15-16/02: **Pew Oceans Commission Hearing**; New Orleans, LA; exhibit

4/18/02: **Swamp Eyes**; St. Rose, LA; exhibit

5/13-15/02: **American Water Resources Association**; New Orleans, LA; exhibit and presentations by several, including Col. Julich, Ted Falgout, and others)

5/22-25/02: **Ducks Unlimited Annual National Convention**; New Orleans, LA; exhibit

8/7-10/02: **Louisiana Municipal Association Conference**; Lake Charles, LA; exhibit

9/10/02: **EPA Resources for Schools**; Baton Rouge, LA; exhibit and presentation

Other Activities

Some of the activities below were through CWPPRA-funded initiatives, while others were partner activities where CWPPRA Outreach staff provided support wherever needed.

Governor's Office/DNR worked with Pacific Visions to develop a video, presentation, and tours by Gov. Foster for the attendees of the **Southern Governors Conference** held on Aug. 25-27. This effort has been extremely successful in educating governors of other states and generating a great deal of media attention. Outreach staff provided assistance to Pacific Visions with video footage.

Coffee has held numerous meetings in Washington with legislators and high-ranking government officials to provide information and education about Louisiana's coastal wetland loss problem, including **all Louisiana delegation and/or staffs**. **Coffee** also worked as part of the support group for the **Governor's Coastal Transition Team**.

At the request of Senator Landrieu, Sidney Coffee put together a coastal briefing for **Sen. Joe Lieberman** in New Orleans. Lieberman sits on the Environment and Public Works committee in the Senate (oversight of WRDA) and is a conferee on the Energy Bill (contains language for coastal restoration for energy infrastructure security). In his comments to the press after the briefing, he recognized the problem as national in scope and of Federal concern. Several articles were generated. **Col. Peter Rowan** attended the briefing with his wife on his first day on the job at the 6th District.

The **Pew Oceans Commission** held a public hearing in New Orleans March 15, 2002. Outreach staff and others from COE assisted the Commission's staff with development of a panel designed to cover Louisiana's coastal wetland loss problem and restoration efforts. Col. Julich and Dr. Bahr gave testimony on behalf of CWPPRA. King Milling and Denise Reed were among those who gave public comment concerning the importance of coastal restoration. Information packets and maps were distributed to Commission members prior to the hearing. The CWPPRA exhibit was also displayed along with informational handouts for the public hearing. Commission members include **Hon. Leon Panetta (Chair), Hon. Eileen Claussen, John Adams (NRDC founder and President), Hon. Mike Hayden, Hon. Tony Knowles, Hon. George Pataki, and David Rockefeller, Jr.** Personal contact was made with some members during a reception following the hearing. The Commission will make its formal recommendations in a report to Congress and the nation later this year.

The **U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy** also held hearings in New Orleans.

The **Governor's Office of Coastal Activities** organized **May Day 2002: A Call to Action**. The event was designed to demonstrate Louisiana citizens' commitment to environmental stewardship by conducting environmental projects throughout the state. Over 10,000 participants registered projects in 32 parishes, plus one tree-planting project in Beaumont, TX. Approximately 1,000 letters were sent to the Governor and the event generated over \$25,000 in publicity. Bodin conducted a teacher workshop for Lafayette Parish Middle School Science teachers - 19 teachers. This event served as CWPPRA Outreach's May Day event. Pre-event press release distributed. Received coverage in the **Daily Advertiser, KATC (Lafayette, ABC affiliate), and KLFY (Lafayette, CBS affiliate)**.

The **Committee on the Future of Coastal Louisiana** released their final report. "Saving Coastal Louisiana, A National Treasure: Recommendations for Implementing an Expanded Coastal Restoration Program from the Committee on the Future of Coastal Louisiana" is available online at www.LaCoast.gov and www.goca.state.la.us. This has led to the state's hiring of a contractor and the development of a national campaign, "America's Wetland." The implementation of the campaign is under the direction of Sidney Coffee.

Dedication of the \$119 million **Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project** by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its non-federal partner, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2002. The ceremony was held on the west bank of the Mississippi River just below Luling at the project site. Speakers included La. Gov. Mike Foster and Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, the Corps' Chief of Engineers. The keynote speaker was La. Rep. Billy Tauzin.

There were two video news releases on Davis Pond...a pre-feed before the ceremony highlighting remarks from Col. Julich, New Orleans District Engineer, and Mr. Jack Caldwell, Secretary, La. Department of Natural Resources, along with B-roll of the project under construction and in its completed status. The 2nd feed, the ceremony, was uplinked the day of the event. **Hometown Productions produced the VNRs** and was responsible for uplink and quantitative results. **(The VNRs were a result of Task Force funding from the outreach initiatives presented last year. DNR also contributed funds.)**

An **Adaptive Management Conference** was held by CWPPRA entities August 12-13. The conference presented project successes and lessons learned to CWPPRA partners, as well as stakeholders and other interested parties.

Upcoming Activities

“A Celebration of Success” Dedication/Groundbreaking Ceremony: The initial planning has begun for the next multi-project, multi-agency dedication ceremony. It will cover projects sponsored by NRCS, NMFS, COE, and EPA in Vermilion, St. Mary, Iberia, and western Terrebonne parishes. Dates in November are currently being considered.

CWPPRA Project and Program Fact Sheets: The fact sheets are general overview fact sheets targeted for the general public, state and national legislators, and other interested parties. We are about to print the 38 completed project fact sheets. We previously had completed and printed the 15 PPL 11 project fact sheets and the eight fact sheets used for the December 2001 dedication ceremony. This will give us a total of 61 fact sheets that have been printed. We are currently reviewing fact sheets for projects that are in the engineering/design and construction phases. These will be printed next. We will also produce fact sheets explaining various facets of the CWPPRA program.

Interpretive Topic Series Fact Sheets: LSU will be producing three more ITS Fact Sheets. The topics are:

- Louisiana and Florida Wetland Inventory
- Private landowners and coastal Restoration in Louisiana
- The Role of Coast 2050 in the CWPPRA Project Selection Process

CWPPRA Project Signs: Outreach Committee members (NRCS & COE) are working to develop signs promoting the work of CWPPRA for various areas. Currently, they are seeking approval from FWS and DOTD for placement.

Upcoming Conferences: A large number of national conferences are set for next year in the New Orleans area. The committee is currently investigating which of these will most benefit CWPPRA to attend and is submitting proposals.

WaterMarks: The Region 1 issue has been delivered. The committee is working with the contractor to develop the next issue to cover global climate change/sea level rise and its relationship to CWPPRA projects.

The Breaux Act Public Outreach Committee will continue to **coordinate with partner agencies on outreach endeavors!**

**Breaux Act Public Outreach Committee
Report to the Task Force
July - September 2002**

Meetings

- 7/16: Wilson, Bodin, and other staff and committee members attended the Technical Committee meeting in Baton Rouge. Pre-event press release distributed.
- 7/23: Bodin, Dupre, and other committee members attend meeting in Baton Rouge with **La. Dept. of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism** representative to discuss La. Purchase opportunities.
- 7/31: Bodin and other committee member attend **BTNEP Management Conference** meeting in Thibodaux.
- 8/1: Bodin and Dupre attend **National Association of Government Communicators** meeting.
- 8/5: Media workshop conference call.
- 8/6: Bodin attended **LCA** Public Participation meeting in Baton Rouge.
- 8/7: Wilson, Bodin, and other outreach committee members attended the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force Meeting. Bodin presented the outreach report. Pre-event press release distributed.
- 8/12: Bodin attended **LCA** Public Participation meeting in New Orleans.
- 8/14: Presented CWPPRA update and handouts to **Local Coastal Program Quarterly Meeting** in Baton Rouge.
- 8/14: Media workshop conference call.
- 8/19: *WaterMarks* conference call.
- 8/20: *WaterMarks* planning meeting between committee and contractor in New Orleans.
- 8/21: Project tour with *WaterMarks* contractor, NRCS, and staff.
- 9/4: Wilson attended BTNEP LCA committee meeting.
- 9/5: Outreach Committee conference call.
- 9/12: Media workshop debriefing conference call.
- 9/14: Dupre attended WETMAP training.
- 9/16: Outreach Committee meeting.
- 9/18: Wilson, Bodin, and other staff and committee members attended the Technical Committee meeting in New Orleans. Bodin presented annual report. Pre-event press release distributed.
- 9/20: Dedication planning meeting held in Lafayette.

Executive Awareness

- Governor's Office/DNR worked with Pacific Visions to develop a video, presentation, and tours by Gov. Foster for the attendees of the **Southern Governor's**

Conference held on Aug. 25-27. This effort has been extremely successful in educating governors of other states and generating a great deal of media attention. CWPPRA staff provided b-roll for video that was shown at conference and for another video being produced for the America's Wetland campaign.

- Contact with **Sen. Breaux's** office has been initiated concerning the upcoming dedication ceremony.

National Awareness

- **National Public Radio (NPR)** and the **Public Broadcasting System (PBS)** have aired stories on coastal wetland loss in Louisiana. The radio series on NPR ran in conjunction with a two-part television series on **"NOW with Bill Moyers" on PBS television**. The first part of the television series, "Losing Ground," aired on **Friday, Sept. 6** and kicked off NOW's new fall season. It told the Louisiana coastal wetland loss story. The second part, "The Sinking of New Orleans," aired **Sept. 20** and focused on New Orleans and the potential disaster if a hurricane makes a direct hit. The related three-part series, "Louisiana's Vanishing Wetlands" ran on NPR's ***All Things Considered* Sept. 6, 8, and 9**. Outreach staff provided assistance with visuals as per PBS request. For a transcript of the radio programs, visit: www.npr.org/members/
- **Ducks Unlimited**, the national publication, ran an article, "A View from the Gulf," that included information about coastal Louisiana's land loss problem in their July/August 2002 issue. CWPPRA referenced.
- Assisting contractor for the **National Science Teachers Association** with b-roll and information for production of a **video to be released to schools on a national scale**. A portion of the video will deal with the science of coastal restoration in La.
- This quarter's LaCoast number of visitors: 45,378

Local Awareness

- Breaux Act Newsflashes distributed:
July 2002: 4
August 2002: 7
September 2002: 10
Number of subscribers: 676
- 7/18: Bodin presented to approximately 90 Lafayette Parish teachers at NWRC.
- 8/7: Dupre exhibited at the **Louisiana Municipal Association Conference** in Lake Charles. Attendance was 1482.
- 9/7: Bodin presented to 15 Lafayette Parish **Intech** teachers (4th grade) at NWRC.
- 9/10: Dupre exhibited and presented to teachers at the **EPA Resources for Schools** event. Attendance for the event was 192.
- 9/17: Rex Caffey and Mark Schexnayder presented "Fisheries and Fishermen: The Opportunity for a Third Delta – A Technical Review" based on the CWPPRA Interpretive Topic Series.

- 9/21: Bodin presented to 20 teachers from throughout the state at the **Alternate Teacher Certification Program** at LA College in Pineville, LA.
- 9/28: Dupre presented to Lafayette Parish **Intech** teachers at NWRC.
- 9/28: Bodin exhibited at BTNEP's **La Fete d'Ecologie** in Thibodaux.

Outreach Project Updates

30-Second Radio Spot Announcements: The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act spring and summer radio ad campaign is complete. A total of 1,667 thirty-second radio spots were aired on radio stations throughout the state on the Louisiana Network, WJBO radio in Baton Rouge, and WWL radio in New Orleans. WWL radio's coverage extends to 30+ states in the evening hours when the spot was aired. Senator Breaux and his staffers said they were delighted to have participated in this endeavor. Outreach Committee members have received numerous positive reports on the campaign.

Video News Release Campaign: The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act video news release campaign for fiscal year 2002 is also complete. Two video news releases were completed and distributed statewide--one on the southwest Louisiana eight-project dedication and one on the Davis Pond dedication. Both news releases were extremely successful being aired by broadcasting affiliates, during their news broadcasts, in the major cities of Louisiana. A 30-minute video was also produced for each effort. They were each aired throughout the state for four to six weeks. **This effort was funded by the Task Force as a special initiative.**

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Project Information Management System (PIMS): A system has been developed by the NWRC Electronics Technology Development Team that enables project managers to update project information in the COE's database that, in turn, updates project information on LaCoast. This system simplifies the process and provides the public with more current project information.

Upcoming Conferences: A large number of national conferences are set for next year in the New Orleans area. The committee is currently investigating which of these will most benefit CWPPRA to attend and is submitting proposals.

Interpretive Topic Series: The authors of the series have made many presentations at national, regional, and local conferences. The latest one was:
"Fisheries and Fishermen: The Opportunity for a Third Delta - A Technical Review"
(2002) Schexnayder, M. and R. Caffey, Nichols State University, September 17, 2002.

LCA Feasibility Study: The Public Outreach Committee is working closely with the LCA effort, assisting with outreach and public participation.

WaterMarks: The Region 1 issue has been delivered. The committee is working with the contractor to develop the next issue to cover global climate change/sea level rise and its relationship to CWPPRA projects.

Upcoming Dedication/Groundbreaking Ceremony: The initial planning has begun for the next multi-project, multi-agency dedication ceremony. It will cover projects sponsored by NRCS, NMFS and COE in Vermilion, St. Mary, Iberia, and western Terrebonne parishes. Dates in November are currently being considered.

CWPPRA Brochure: The Outreach Committee is currently reviewing a draft re-write (Donaldson) of the old CWPPRA brochure.

Article on Davis Pond: GOCA is currently shopping an article written by CWPPRA staff (Donaldson) to national magazines.

Article on Nutria Program: Donaldson has written an article about the Nutria Control Program. Design for electronic dissemination is underway.

Article on Brown Marsh: Donaldson has completed an article to update the public about the Brown Marsh phenomenon.

3-Part Insurance Series: Donaldson has completed the first draft of a 3-part article dealing with insurance and coastal wetland loss/sea level rise. It is being reviewed by the Insurance Commissioner's office.

The Return of the Pelican: Donaldson is developing a two-part article covering the decline, reintroduction, and recovery of the La. State bird. It discusses the importance of habitat restoration, such as those projects through CWPPRA.

Other Activities:

Some of the activities below were through CWPPRA-funded initiatives, while others were partner activities where CWPPRA Outreach staff provided support wherever needed.

- The state scheduled a tour for officials from the **White House** and the COE to give them a firsthand look at the state's disappearing wetlands. Funding for a helicopter tour has been approved to come from last year's special field tour initiative budget. At the time of this report, the tour was being postponed due to weather.
- John Saia and Randy Hanchey presented at the National Waterways Conference in New Orleans September 6.
- John Saia presented to the National Association of Stormwater Management Agencies in New Orleans September 12.
- An **Adaptive Management Conference** was held by CWPPRA entities August 12-13. The conference presented project successes and lessons learned to CWPPRA partners, as well as stakeholders and other interested parties.
- John Saia presented CWPPRA information at a Gulf of Mexico Program Management Committee meeting in New Orleans May 8-9 on the issue of the GOMP finding some capability to assist in CWPPRA, Coast 2050, and LCA. It was well received and the issue was moved to the policy review board, which resulted in a statement of support and will result in a series of future meetings with action items.
- Rebecca Triche and Gabrielle Bodin conducted their first **media training** workshop at LUMCON August 24 to 18 participants from organizations from throughout southern La. The training was conducted for those seeking skill development in effective use of the media. CWPPRA was listed as one of the sponsors.
- The University of New Orleans is producing a brochure, "**Louisiana's Energy Resources.**" Images from the LaCoast web site are being used.

**Articles mentioning CWPPRA/CWPPRA Projects during
July, August, and September: 15**

Source of Article	Date	Title of Article
American Press	07/04/02	"Nutria bounty program proposed"
New Orleans CityBusiness	07/29/02	"Louisiana universities team up in coastal erosion battle"
Comet	07/30/02	"Lafourche diversion project gaining steam"
Business News	07/31/02	"Wetland erosion has big impact on Louisiana"
Ducks Unlimited	July/August 2002	"View from the Gulf"
Daily Advocate	08/08/02	"Official unaware of wetland loss until La. transfer"
American Press	08/11/02	"Official unaware of wetlands loss until transfer"
Alumni Accents	Fall 2002	"Professor working to restore wetlands"
American Press	09/12/02	"Pipeline pumps sand into Holly Beach"
Daily Comet	09/18/02	"Engineer chosen for design"
The Advocate	09/19/02	"Wetland project work may begin"
The Advocate	09/20/02	"Coastal erosion brings federal officials to state"
The Advertiser	09/21/02	"White House officials to tour disappearing coast"
The Advocate	09/23/02	"Project renews sand at Holly Beach"
The Conveyance	Winter 2002	"Bayou Lafourche gets the go"

Proposed Strategic Initiatives for FY 2003

The following section contains new proposed strategic initiatives to be delivered to Task Force during the annual report as per Task Force guidance. The purpose of these proposals is to increase dialog between the Task Force and the Public Outreach Committee in order to further coastal restoration outreach. The Public Outreach Committee will bring forth new initiatives annually for the Task Force's consideration above the current base level of Outreach funding. The following initiatives are pre-proposals that can be developed more fully, based on the desires of the Task Force. Members of the committee or representatives of the sponsoring agencies would be pleased to discuss these initiatives with Task Force members, either individually or as a group.

FY03 Proposed New Initiatives

National Awareness

“Protect the Purchase”

- USGS
- \$79,000

Local Awareness

Media Initiative

- NRCS
- \$8,000

“Louisiana Wetlands Functions and Values” CD-ROM Update

- USGS
- \$23,000

“Protect the Purchase”

The Louisiana Purchase took place in 1803 when the United States purchased the territory from France through an agreement signed in New Orleans. The citizens and President Thomas Jefferson wanted to assure continued access to the Port of New Orleans and France wanted to assure the territory would not fall to England. The Port of New Orleans was considered vital to the success of the young country and President Jefferson was willing to go to war, if necessary, to assure access to the port that provided the nation with worldwide export and import capabilities.

Louisiana will celebrate the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase with a variety of events throughout the state in 2003. How much of the Purchase has been lost and what are the consequences to the nation as this loss continues? What can we do to “Protect the Purchase?” This event provides the perfect opportunity to educate locals and visitors about the issues surrounding Louisiana’s coastal wetland loss.

Preliminary discussions have been held with the director and other staff of the Cabildo State Museum in New Orleans to assess their interest in placing an exhibit sponsored by CWPPRA during the celebratory year. The proposed exhibit would contain information about the importance of the Purchase to the nation and tie in the threat to the nation as the Purchase disappears through wetland loss. (The exhibit panels would be of the type that could be reused for other information in the future.) The exhibit would also include a computer kiosk with interactive programming. The staff of the museum was very interested in the exhibit and agreed to place it in the Lamplighter Room, which is the entrance to the museum. The staff also requested that handout material be included as part of an exhibit.

Visitation to the Cabildo is approximately 350,000 a year, consisting of 70% tourists and 30% locals. Visitors to museums tend to be educated individuals. Many conference functions are also held in this venue.

Outreach staff has also spoke with National Park Service staff, and they have agreed to include any handout material developed concerning wetland loss and the Purchase in all of their Louisiana locations. Along this vein, preliminary discussions are being held to co-sponsor an event at the Barataria Preserve in April.

Semi-permanent exhibit	23K
Computer kiosk	9K
Handouts:	
Mini CDs	9K
Flyers/Brochures	9K
Staff development:	
Writer	8K
Research	6K
Graphic Artist	7K
Computer Programmer	4K
Administration	4K
Total cost for this initiative	79K

Sponsoring Agency: USGS

Implementation: January – December 2003

**FY 2003 Proposed Outreach Initiative
CWPPRA Public Outreach Committee**

Lead federal agency--USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

- In federal fiscal year 2003, produce four, 2-minute videos on various PL 646 activities.
- Provide the video news releases (through satellite feed) to all 24 television stations in Louisiana broadcasting local news at 5pm-6pm-10pm.
- Each video news release (four separate ones) will involve approximately two hours of field production.
- Each video news release will contain interviews and will also be edited for maximum effectiveness.
- The two-minute video news release will also be included in the "Louisiana Hometown Network: Weekend Report," a program that airs on over-the-air television stations every weekend in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Monroe, Morgan City-Thibodaux-Houma area.
- Anticipated cost of each video news release is approximately \$1,800.
- The four video news releases will cost approximately \$7,200.
- The video news releases will be produced in random and/or seasonal fashion.
- All video news releases will be completed before September 30, 2003.
- All Public Law 646 Outreach Committee members/partners will have the opportunity to present a proposal or a subject to me as a possible video news release topic.

Total cost for this news media initiative—approximately \$8,000.

Proposal submitted by:

Herbert J. Bourque

NRCS State Public Affairs Specialist and State Outreach Coordinator for the U.S.

Department of Agriculture in Louisiana--318-473-7762.

“Louisiana Wetlands Functions and Values” CD-ROM Update

The “Louisiana Wetlands Functions and Values” CD-ROM was produced by the NWRC Electronics Technology Development Team through a partnership with Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in 1998. Since then, 8,500 copies have been distributed through educational workshops, conferences, and the LaCoast Web site.

This CD-ROM includes a variety of educational presentations and ideas that cover wetlands functions and values, coastal wetlands land loss and restoration, the Wetlands Reserve Program and wetlands conservation opportunities statewide. Additionally, the CD contains a wetlands quiz that can be used for testing students’ knowledge in an interactive setting. The CD is useful as an educational tool for students ranging from the 6th – 12th grades. Use by adults interested in wetlands is also appropriate.

This popular CD is due for revision. This proposal includes revising the content as well as updating it for newer operating systems. It would also be made cross-platform (able to be used on Macintosh operating systems as well as PCs), which is a common request from educators.

Total cost for this initiative: 23K

Sponsoring Agency: USGS

Implementation: FY 2003

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR FY03 OUTREACH COMMITTEE INITIATIVES

Background

Request #1

The Task Force approved funding for two EPA special strategic initiatives in October 2001. One was to conduct field tour/briefings for \$55K. The use of \$15K was recently approved to support a White House tour. The other special initiative was for business/industry workshops on coastal Louisiana wetland loss for \$45K. *The Outreach Committee is seeking guidance from the Task Force concerning the remaining funds. Options include retaining the funds in the budget for related opportunities in FY03.*

Request #2

The Public Outreach Committee is submitting three new proposed strategic initiatives for the Task Force's consideration for funding above the current base level of Outreach funding. New strategic initiatives are delivered to the Task Force annually at the October meeting, as per previous Task Force guidance. The three initiatives, their sponsoring agencies, and level of funding are (see attached fact sheets for details):

1. "Protect the Purchase" – USGS – \$79,000
2. Media Initiative – NRCS – \$8,000
3. "Louisiana Wetlands Functions and Values" CD-ROM Update – USGS – \$23,000

Recommendation of the Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee recommends approval of funding for the proposed initiatives.

For Decision

The Task Force is presented with the following requests for review:

Request #1 – Guidance on re-programming FY02 outreach initiative funds.

Request #2 – Approval of funding for the following proposed initiatives for FY03:

1. National Awareness – "Protect the Purchase" campaign - \$79,000
2. Local Awareness - Media Initiative - \$8,000
3. Local Awareness - LA Wetlands Functions and Values CD - \$23,000

“Protect the Purchase”

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Sponsoring Agency: USGS

Implementation: FY 2003

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

REPORT ON CWPPRA PROGRAM ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT REVIEW

For Information and Discussion

Dr. Visser and Mr. Raynie will report on the results of the FY02 Adaptive Management Review.

CWPPRA Adaptive Management Review

In October 2001, the CWPPRA Task Force authorized and funded an Adaptive Management Review of constructed wetland restoration projects in coastal Louisiana. The purpose of this review was to evaluate projects which have been constructed, linking assumed causes of wetland loss project design features, physical and biological responses, to recommend improvements to existing projects as well as improvements to the process of selecting and implementing future projects. A draft Executive Summary from this review and a CD containing digital versions (in *.pdf format) of the draft final project-specific Adaptive Management Review reports were sent to the Task Force, Technical Committee, and Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee members for review on July 26, 2002. These documents are also available on the DNR website at <http://www.savelawetlands.org/site/adaptive>.

An Adaptive Management Workshop took place at August 12-13, 2002 at the Burden Conference Center, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809 (see attached schedule). The findings of the review were shared and discussed among the attendees. The review has been a success and has already improved the lines of communication and feedback within and among agencies, academics, and disciplines.

All comments received will be incorporated into the final draft to be distributed at the end of September for the last review. This final report will be presented at the October 2002 Task Force meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact Rick Raynie (RickR@dnr.state.la.us, 225-342-9436) or Jenneke Visser (comvss@lsu.edu, 225-578-6377) if you have any questions or need additional information.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two public meetings will be held to present the results of candidate projects under review and consideration for the 12th Priority Project List of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. Members of the public are invited to attend and provide comments on each of the candidate projects. After the public meetings to present the evaluation results, the Technical Committee will meet in December to recommend projects for selection to the 12th list. In January 2003, the Breaux Act Task Force will select the 12th Priority Project List.

November 19, 2002 – 7:00 p.m.

Abbeville, Louisiana
Vermilion Parish Police Jury
Courthouse Building, Courtroom 1
2nd Floor

November 20, 2002 – 7:00 p.m.

New Orleans, Louisiana
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
District Assembly Room

CWPPRA 12th Priority Project List Public Meetings

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November 19, 2002

Abbeville, Louisiana
Vermilion Parish Police Jury
Courthouse Building, Courtroom 1
2nd Floor

November 20, 2002

New Orleans, Louisiana
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
District Assembly Room

Agenda

7:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.	Introductions and Meeting Overview
7:15 p.m.- 7:25 p.m.	State of Louisiana comments
7:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.	Presentation of PPL12 Candidates
8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Public Comment on Projects
8:30 p.m.	Adjourn

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

For Information and Discussion

Each Task Force member will be given the opportunity to propose additional items or issues for the consideration of the Task Force.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Task Force chairman will offer members of the public an opportunity to comment on issues of concern.

COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
ACT
TASK FORCE MEETING

October 9, 2002

DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING

The next meeting of the Task Force is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m., January 16, 2003, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Final details will be provided via public notice and the Breaux Act (CWPPRA) Internet Web Page.